Approved For Release 2004/12/22 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000400050029-8

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Date. 18 Sep
Item No. 11
Ref. No. 6-7

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ADAMS SAID IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1966, HE DISCOVERED A SERIES OF DOCUMENTS AT CIA HEADQUARTERS INDICATING THE STRENGTH OF THE COMMUNIST FORCES, THEN OFFICIALLY ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 300,000, WAS MORE LIKELY DOUBLED. HE SAID IN THE FOLLOWING MONTHS INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS CONCLUDED HIS FINDINGS WERE VALID.

"BY MID-1967, THE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE FOR HIGHER NUMBERS WERE SO MASSIVE THAT THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY QUESTION THAT THE ENEMY ARMY WAS MUCH BIGGER THAN WE THOUGHT," HE SAID.

"THE CIAS POSITION AT THIS POINT WAS THAT WE SHOULD INCREASE THE ENEMYS STRENGTH ESTIMATE TO REFLECT THE ESTIMATE," ADAMS SAID.

"FEARING THE PUBLIC REACTION TO HIGHER NUMBERS, HOWEVER, (GEN. WILLIAM) WESTMORELANDS COMMAND WAS LOBBYING TO KEEP THE ESTIMATE AT HIS OFFICIAL LEVEL, THAT IS, BELOW 300,000."

ADAMS ACCUSED THE CIA OF "CAVING IN" DURING A CONFERENCE IN SAIGON IN SEPTEMBER, 1967, AND "SIGNING AN AGREEMENT WHICH KEPT THE ENEMY FORCE ESTIMATE AT HIS OLD SIZE."

HE SAID THE CONFERENCE WAS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF WESTMORELANDS COMMAND, THE CIA, THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND STATE DEPARTMENT INTELLIGENCE.

ADAMS SAID A DRAFT FROM THE BRIEFING WAS SENT TO WASHINGTON AND "WAS SO BLATANTLY MISLEADING THAT IT MADE SOME CIA OFFICIALS QUESTION THE WISDOM OF HAVING CAVED IN TO THE MILITARYS NUMBERS AT SAIGON."

"CONGRESS WAS ALSO FED THE PHONY FIGURES," ADAMS SAID. "THE DIRECTORS NEW YEARS BRIEFING TO CONGRESS, FOR EXAMPLE, NOT ONLY USED THE SAIGON NUMBERS, BUT EVEN STATED THAT THE ENEMYS STRENGTH WAS DECLINING."

ADAMS SAID "SHORTLY THEREAFTER, I WAS RETIRED AS THE CIAS CHIEF ESTIMATOR OF VC NUMBERS."

PIKES STATEMENT TODAY ABOUT THE SUBPOENA CONTROVERSY WAS THE LATEST IN AN INCREASINGLY BITTER DISPUTE BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE AND THE WHITE HOUSE OVER THE PANELS INVESTIGATION OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE MATTERS.

UPI 09-18 11:24 AED

Approved For Release 2004/12/22 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000400050029-8